



REGIONAL UPDATE

Monthly Newsletter of the South Shore Regional Centre for Education

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Have a story or
photo you'd like
included? Please
contact us:
www.ssrce.ca



@SSRCENS



@SSRCE_NS

At-Home Learning

Schools throughout SSRCE started day one of at-home learning on Friday, April 30, 2021. Staff have been preparing for this since the beginning of the school year, including students practicing Google Classrooms and Google Meets.

We invite you to share photos of your at-home learning experiences and use the hashtag #AtHomeLearningNS. Please keep in mind the privacy of students who you do not have consent to photograph.

Pictured below:

Top: Newcombville Elementary School staff reading to their class.

Bottom: Ms. Finlay, Learning Centre Teacher, at Forest Heights Community School with multiple Google Classrooms open for her learning centre students. Each student is paired with their TA, who are also in their meetings.





A Message from the Regional Executive Director

Despite the pandemic, we've had a successful school year so far and have been fortunate to hold in-person classes until recently. We've adapted to changing needs over the last year and have a plan to ensure the next two months are just as successful.

I understand many families are feeling anxious and want to assure you we've been preparing for learning at-home since the beginning of the school year. I am confident in the processes we've developed and know our staff and teachers have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure students have the best possible experience.

We know the transition to at-home learning not only impacts students. Parents and guardians have also had to shift their routines and for this reason we have additional supports in place. The Nova Scotia Homework Hub has expanded to now offer math help to grades 4 through 12, which includes free virtual tutoring. There's also Math Help, an accessible guide online to offer parents/guardians ideas on how they help children practice math skills at home. For more information on these resource and other supports, please read page 6.

For families who are unable to access food during the school closures, Feed Nova Scotia and local food support programs are here to help. Food banks and local food programs are open and safely supporting communities. For more information and to be connected with your nearest option, visit [211 online](#).

If you are unable to access food support from a local food program, Feed Nova Scotia's COVID-19 Emergency Food Box Program is available. Call 211 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. to see if the program is a good fit.

Again, I'd like to thank everyone in our school communities for your ongoing cooperation and understanding. We've had tremendous support from students, parents/guardians and staff. We take our lead from Public Health, who will advise us what is best for our school communities and what our next steps will be. Families will be updated on a return to school date by May 12, 2021. Let's keep working together as we head into the final two months of this school year.

#AtHomeLearningNS #WeGotThis

Stay safe,

Paul Ash

SSRCE Regional Executive Director

"I'm confident in the processes we've developed for at-home learning. Our ongoing success depends on students, parents/guardians and staff continuing to work together."

- PAUL ASH

SSRCE REGIONAL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



RootED Holds Contest to Raise Awareness of Good Food

The RootED School Food Project is asking students to use their imagination and creatively express the importance of serving colorful, local and equitable food in schools. The contest runs until 4 p.m. on May 7, 2021. There are great prizes up for grabs and a variety of ways to enter.

The contest encourages students to create a rap/jingle, short video, artwork or mural that demonstrates the importance of healthy food. The winning entries will be used by RootED to promote and educate the public and SSRCE's school communities.



This a great hands-on project for students to use their creative passions and learn more about healthy food. There are cash prizes for first and second place winners in the individual and group categories. For the classes that place first and second, each student will receive a voucher for healthy and delicious food. For contest rules and how to entry, [visit the SSRCE website](#).

RootED is a non-profit who works with school communities in Lunenburg and Queens County to offer wholesome, tasty food in school cafeterias so students can thrive in health and learning. To learn more about RootED, check out this [three-minute video](#).

Nominations Extended for Lieutenant Governor's Respectful Citizenship Award



Photo of the Lieutenant-Governor Of Nova Scotia flag.

Nominations for the 2021 Lieutenant Governor's Respectful Citizenship Award are extended to May 25, 2021. This award recognizes students who've developed a project or activity that shows leadership and dedication to creating safe and inclusive spaces.

Every year, there can be up to 22 students awarded from across Nova Scotia with one team and one individual from each region. To reflect the province's diverse student population, there are eight additional nominee categories which include African Nova Scotian students, Aboriginal students, home schooled or private schools and CSAP.

To be nominated, students must be a registered student in Nova Scotia and enrolled in a grade from Primary to 12. This is a great opportunity to recognize some of SSRCE's exceptional students for their dedicated leadership.

Anyone can nominate a student or team for this award. Activities or projects that are eligible could address bullying, healthy relationships, physical/mental/emotional health and community enhancement, to name a few. The information on eligibility and forms to nominate a student is available [online](#).



IB students at Park View Education Centre.

Park View Celebrates IB Milestone

Park View Education Centre is celebrating a special milestone this year. The school's International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program is turning 40!

Park View was the first Canadian public school east of Montreal to offer the program back in 1981. Now, forty years later, there are approximately 5,500 IB schools throughout the world in 156 countries.

Charlotte Brooks is Park View's IB Diploma Program Coordinator. She says this anniversary is a true milestone and a proud moment for Park View as well as the region.

"It was a courageous decision for Park View, a new school in the early 1980's, to attempt this established, internationally-recognized program," says Brooks. "We were told by some that it would not be successful in rural Nova Scotia... but here we are, 40 years later!"

Park View is home to approximately 900 students in grades 10 to 12, and each year, nearly 30 percent of the school's students enroll in at least one Pre-IB or IB course, providing them with an enriched curriculum that has become a well-established part of the school's tradition and reputation.

What is the IB Program?

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program is recognized around the world as a challenging and well-rounded curriculum for the last two years of high school. This rewarding, international education program allows students to explore various perspectives and global issues ranging from climate change to environmental challenges to human rights.

Students who tend to be successful in the program are curious, self-motivated, hardworking, responsible, open-minded, and resilient. Grade 10 is viewed as a preparatory year for the official, well-rounded IB program that spans grades 11 and 12.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program is recognized around the world as a challenging and well-rounded curriculum.



40 years

Park View currently offers IB courses in Biology, Chemistry, English, French, History, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology, Theory of Knowledge, and Visual Arts. Teachers receive specialized training to enhance their delivery of these courses. The program emphasizes the development of strong student skills in such areas as organization, communication, analysis, reflection, presentation, stress-management, and teamwork.

At Park View, the program is open to all students who love to learn and who are willing to develop the skills necessary for success. Students may choose either the full diploma program or select individual IB courses in their areas of interest and strength. Brooks says over the program's 40 year history, there has been many successes, including the ongoing preparation of students for post-secondary studies and career directions.

"Many students do not understand the true benefit of the IB program until they start university," says Brooks. "That's when they realize that their high school background in IB classes allows for a more seamless transition into post-secondary study."

Brooks says having a program right here in Lunenburg County is a privilege we need to celebrate as a potential agent for community development. The 40th anniversary highlights the benefits of offering a challenging world-class education to SSRCE students.

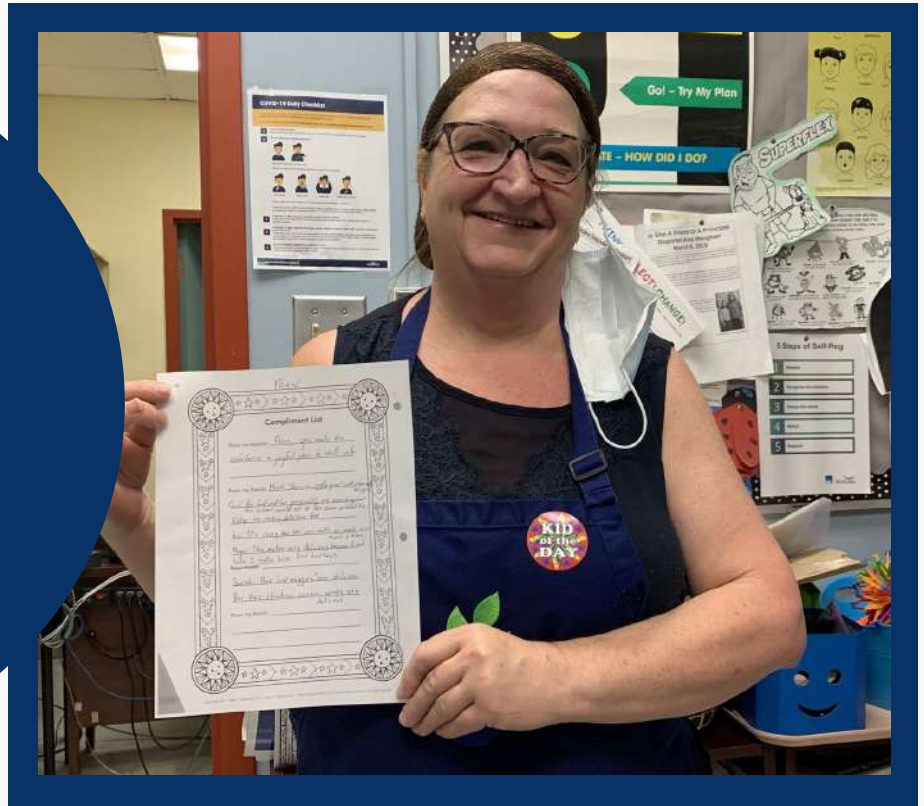
Park View has created a video with more information on the IB Program, click below for more info.



MEET OUR TEAM

Fran Reid

West Northfield
Elementary School
Cafeteria Manager



At the end of each week, the Grade 5 class at West Northfield Elementary School chooses a "Kid of the Day." Recently, they decided to award their beloved Cafeteria Manager, Fran Reid, with the special recognition of "Adult of the Day."

Fran is a fixture at West Northfield Elementary School. She makes healthy and hearty meals every day and ALL meals are made from scratch! Her passion for cooking is contagious and the students and staff at West Northfield appreciate her dedication and commitment.

While school was taking place in-person, Fran started her day by making breakfast for approximately 100 students each morning and then moved on to lunch prep. She boxes and labels each meal (to meet COVID restrictions) and prepares and packages recess snacks as well. Fran would like to thank her co-worker, Judy, who she calls her 'runner' as she delivers all the meals and snacks to the classrooms.

In her own words:

The thing I enjoy the most about my role is the children! I love cooking and making sure each child has a good healthy lunch. Cooking is my passion and the kids are a bonus. I love their smiles, their hugs, their "Oh, this was so good Fran!"

So, with COVID and the restrictions I really, really miss the kids. I long for the day to have them back in the cafeteria with me. I miss their chitter chatter in the cafeteria and their laughter. I tell the kids, although they are not in the cafeteria where I can see them, I still make their meals with love! For me, it is all about the kids and making sure their little bellies smile each day and no child goes without a recess snack or lunch.



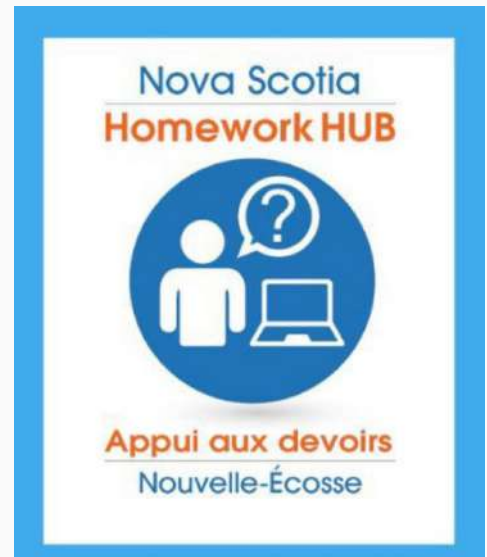
Nova Scotia Homework Hub Expands Access and Hours

Nova Scotia Homework Hub has recently expanded to offer math support to students in grades 4 to 6 and more tutoring hours for grades 7 to 12. This is a free online bilingual platform supporting students in math, including tutoring at no cost.

The Homework Hub is a great resource for students and has shown strong usage throughout the regions. Students log in through their GNSPES accounts and have access to courses which they are currently enrolled. With this expansion, the Homework Hub now provides math help for grades 4 through 12. The platform offers 24-7 access to French and English video tutorials, practice exercises, online graphing calculators, online math textbooks and more.

There's also one-on-one sessions with qualified math tutors in French or English, via online with use of a whiteboard. Students who may not be able to access the internet can call toll free 1-844-243-9428 to connect with the same qualified tutors. To access a tutor over the phone, a [PIN number is required](#).

Students in grades 4 to 6 can access a math tutoring Help Hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Expanded hours for math tutoring of grades 7 through 12 are now from 5 to 10 p.m. The Homework Hub continues to expand with new resources being added on an ongoing basis. To learn more about the Homework Hub, check out this [video](#).



Homework Hub is a bilingual online platform for math help, grades 4-12.

Supports for Parents/Guardians with At-Home Learning

COVID-19 has added a new spin to learning, and with this in mind the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has many resources to support parents/guardians with at-home learning. Current supports are available for a variety of grade levels in math, reading and writing, and French.

Parents/guardians can access a [math help document](#) that offers fun and interactive ways for children to practice their math. This resource includes ideas to strengthen a range of math skills for grades Primary to 8. By putting these ideas to practice, students can build confidence, use math to solve problems, and understand why math works the way it does.

There's also information and exciting ideas on how to practice [reading and writing at home](#). Like the math document, this resource provides activities parents can use to get their child(ren) reading and writing every day. Additionally, parents can benefit from the reading at home guides for grades [Primary to 2](#) and [grades 3 to 6](#).

Knowing that learning another language is no walk in the park, especially with at-home learning, there are some free online tools to help. Thanks to the N.B. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for sharing their resource [FLORA: French Language Opportunities for Rural Areas](#). This is a fun and interactive online platform for Core French grades 4 to 6. Additionally, there are French online tools for grades 4 to 12 that include [speaking and listening](#), [reading](#), and [writing](#).